

June 14, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Hearing on SB 1506 (Romero)

Our Interim Chief Legislative Advocate, Steve Zehner, and members of the CAO Employee Relations and Compensation staffs attended the joint hearing of the Senate Local Government and Public Employment and Retirement Committees on SB 1506. This is the bill that would withhold VLF backfill from Los Angeles County if more than 50% of the bargaining units are at impasse for 30 days or more.

Senator Romero began the session by stating that the VLF withhold will be removed from the bill, as the "heavy hammer" (as she referred to the VLF withhold) has already achieved its purpose of getting the County's attention. The committee was focusing on two issues; alleged violations of the Ralph M. Brown Act by the Board of Supervisors by making decisions inappropriately in closed sessions and alleged failures of the County to adhere to the principles of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act.

Several union representatives (including Tyrone Freeman, Bud Treece, Rick Guerrero (Fire Fighters), Ralph Miller (Probation Officers), Joe Bader (Physicians), and Ramon Rubalcava (Local 660)) spoke on their perception that the County violates these acts regularly and the bargaining process is not working in LA County. Steve Zehner replied that the bargaining process does work in LA County and new legislation, especially legislation targeted solely at LA County, is not needed.

The pro labor members of the committees made it clear that they believe the process is not working as it should, and "something needs to be done". However, the only concrete

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remedy mentioned was by Senator Torlakson who stated this matter might be referred to the legislative audit committee for review.

Committee members did ask Steve Zehner to do the following:

- Inform the Board that it should allow the voters to decide on the homecare workers' initiative and not spend taxpayer dollars litigating the initiative.
- Provide a summary of unfair labor practice charges decided over the past two years, including how many have been decided in favor of management, and how many in favor of the union.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
IGR:zo

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 660
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants